

Advice from the *Austin American-Statesman*
What to do if an immigration agent knocks on your door
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Their advice is simple: keep the door closed, keep your voice calm and make officers do this the formal way.

If ICE knocks, do this (step by step):

1. Don't open the door. Talk through the door. Teach kids not to open it.
2. Ask who they are, and ask for a judicial warrant. You can ask them to show ID/badges and tell you what agency they're with. Then ask: "Do you have a judicial warrant signed by a judge?"
3. Ask them to slide any warrant under the door (or hold it to a window). Don't open the door "just to take the paper."
4. Check the warrant carefully. Legal groups emphasize this distinction: many ICE "warrants" are administrative forms signed by ICE — not a judge — and they don't automatically authorize entry into a home without consent. A judge-signed warrant is the key detail advocates tell people to look for.
5. Say, clearly, that you do not consent to entry. A plain sentence, no debate: "I do not consent to you entering my home."
6. Use your right to remain silent. Ask for a lawyer. If they start asking questions (where you were born, how you entered, your status), advocates say you can repeat: "I choose to remain silent. I want to speak to an attorney."
7. Don't lie or hand over fake documents. Don't sign anything. Anything you say or sign can be used against you later, advocates warn.

If they force entry anyway: don't resist. Ask for an attorney and stop answering questions — then write down everything you remember (time, what happened, descriptions, names if you can).

Prepare before they show up:

- Pick an emergency contact and memorize their number.
- Make sure your child's school or day care has a backup pickup person.
- Put medical and caregiving permissions in writing where your emergency contact can find them.
- If someone is detained, families can try ICE's online detainee locator to find them.
- Texas legal-aid guidance also stresses the basics: stay calm, don't run and don't open the door unless there's a warrant signed by a judge.